MR. LAWSON: Thank you. Our next speaker will be Erica Frank, to be followed by Sheri Mann

Stewart. And while Ms. Frank is going up there, let me ask the court reporter how are you doing. We're roughly a little bit more than half. If you want to take a break after the next two, that would be good.

THE REPORTER: I would appreciate it.

MR. LAWSON: We'll take two more speakers, then we'll take a five-minute break.

(Brief recess.)

MS. FRANK: Thank you. Our society has made a commitment to creating hazardous nuclear waste for the time being; and this is, of course, a commitment that itself should be questioned but a commitment whose ramifications we need to deal with now. I'm a specialist in preventive medicine. My name, again, is Erica Frank. I'm the director of the preventive medicine residency program at Emory, and I'm a national board member of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

I believe it medically and socially irresponsible to discuss repeatedly transporting spent nuclear fuel through millions of Americans' backyards. There are two major issues: first, that of routine safety issues and the ongoing exposure millions are guaranteed to have to low-

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1 cont.

level increased radiation. On an individual level, these exposures will mainly be trivial, certainly; but we cannot know what their effects will be. And this issue of hubris is a real one. I do know, though, that my husband, two-year-old son and I live across the street from a major CSX line, and I do not want casks parked overnight in my backyard or in anybody else's backyard. Second, there are concerns regarding non-routine safety issues or our vulnerability to the horrible, nearly inevitable, non-routine emergency safety issues that will arise because of accidents -- the DOE acknowledges this -- or, perhaps even more frighteningly, which hasn't been discussed much here this afternoon, because of deliberate acts of domestic or non-domestic terrorism.

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First, the accidents. Again, my specialty is preventive medicine,and preventive medicine's about risk reduction. The American Petroleum Institute says that for every million miles traveled there are six heavy truck accidents. Such accidents can, of course, include fires and explosions both of the combustible materials carried by the trucks themselves and from whatever unpredictable combination occurs in a collision.

2 cont.

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Second, terrorism. In the past several years Atlanta has been periodically exposed to a siege mentality due to the explosion of bombs made from materials as inert as a nail. Can you imagine what a tempting target a cargo of nuclear waste will be and how devastatingly frightening to our populace? And this isn't just a one-time, short-term threat. This is the decades-long threat of leukemia; of breast, thyroid, colon and lung cancer and of diseases about which we can only guess.

2 cont.

Georgia has become an increasingly attractive place to visit and live. I don't know much about about towns in the former Soviet Union or even about many towns in the northeast, but I do know that Chernobyl and Three Mile Island have become synonymous for inadequate emergency planning for the inevitable, potentially enormous nuclear problem and that these have become places no one would even want to visit, much less live. We do not want the same kind of connotations for Atlanta or Chattanooga or Chicago. We cannot afford it from a health or an economic perspective.

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To conclude, the role of government in this is clear: to protect the people, to protect my patients, our colleagues, our friends and

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neighbors and our families. Human error and systems happen, which is acknowledged by DOE. But if one transports thousands of shipments over cumulative millions of miles, risks that are only one in a million become virtually guaranteed. We must make our government keep waste transportation and power companies from making profits at our considerable peril. The classic textbook Public Health and Preventive Medicine states that radiation protection has developed from using basic principles of protection against external irradiation in occupational settings: shielding, distance, time and training. We must take those basic principals, especially those of shielding, distance and time, to heart. Government must protect the people. That is the government's most fundamental responsibility. Thank you.

MR. LAWSON: Our last speaker before we take a break is Sheri Mann Stewart.

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